

Bond Swamp is part of a system of more than 540 National Wildlife Refuges, which provide for the conservation and management of habitats to benefit fish and wildlife. The refuge strives to provide quality hunting and fishing opportunities when compatible with the refuge management objectives.

Through a partnership effort with the State of Georgia and the Ocmulgee Heritage Greenway, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service opened Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to some compatible wildlife oriented recreational uses in 2000. Hunting for white-tailed deer and feral hogs, bank fishing, wildlife observation through hiking, and environmental education are some of the approved recreational uses for the refuge.

The refuge is open to the public year round for visitation and pre-hunt scouting during day light hours, except during firearm hunts. Public access is permitted only on the portion of the refuge that is located east of the Ocmulgee River in Bibb and Twiggs counties. Camping is prohibited.

The refuge is primarily river swamp with creeks and sloughs traversing the entire area. When the Ocmulgee River over flows its banks, the flood plain may remain flooded for weeks. Access by vehicle and foot may be difficult. Four-wheel drive vehicles may be required to access some areas. Portions of the refuge may be closed during periods of flooding.

General Hunt Regulations

Public hunting is permitted on approximately 5,500 acres of the current 6,400 acres of Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Areas closed to public access are marked with signs and orange paint. The refuge boundary is marked with signs and yellow paint.

In addition to Federal regulations, State Game and Fish laws and regulations are adopted and in effect unless they have been further restricted by Federal law or regulations. Licenses, permits, all hunting and fishing equipment and effects, and vehicles or

other conveyances are subject to inspection by Federal and State officers.

A refuge hunt permit and sign in slip are required for all persons who enter the hunt area during refuge firearm hunts.

Hunters are required to sign in once prior to each hunt at the check station. Sign in begins the day before each hunt at noon.

All game must be checked on the day killed at the refuge check station as designated.

Hunter orange is required to be worn on all firearm hunts.

Hunter access is permitted from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset during open seasons.

Hunter Education/Children

Children age 16-25 must possess the hunter education certificate while hunting. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by and be under direct supervision (within sight or hearing) of a person 18 years old or older to hunt or fish on the refuge. Hunter education is not required for children under the age of 16.

Deer Hunting

During deer archery, deer must be recorded on the hunter’s state harvest record at the site of kill.

On deer firearm hunts, a special tag will be issued at the check station. Do not record kill on the state harvest record. These deer will not count towards a hunter’s season limit.

Tree Stands

Tree stands may be placed the day prior to each hunt and must be removed by 11:00 am the day after the hunt.

ATV’S

Use of ATV’s to retrieve game taken may be permitted under the discretion of the refuge manager.

Hunters **must** contact refuge personnel before using an ATV.

ATV’s are not be permitted to be used off of designated refuge foot travel roads and trails.

Wet conditions may prohibit use of ATV’s for game retrieval.

Boats

Use of boats to access the hunt area is at the discretion of the refuge manager. Flood conditions may prohibit use of boats.

Portable non-motorized boat access is available only at the Stone creek parking area. Hunters are permitted to boat south of the launch site to the railroad tracks.

Boats may be used only by permitted hunters starting noon the day before each hunt until the last day of each hunt.

No boat ramp is available. The launch site is primitive and has uneven terrain.

After launching boats, vehicles and trailers must be parked in the Stone creek parking lot.

State boating laws and equipment requirements are in effect.

Sport Fishing

Fishing is open **March 15 through October 15, from sunrise to sunset.**

Fishing is permitted only in areas designated as open to fishing.

Species, limits: same as State regulations except largemouth bass must be 14 inches in length to keep.

Fishermen may use only rod and reel or pole and line to fish.

Fishermen may not place or throw feeds to attract fish.

Designated Fishing Areas

Egg shell Road- bank fishing on Stone Creek- may fish along the north side of road and may walk south along creek bank to power line about 1/4 mile.

Stone Creek Parking Area - walk in 300 yards to creek - can fish north along creek to beaver pond and south to railroad tracks.

Bondsvie Road- drive to railroad tracks to park then walk 100 yards to river on marked trail.

How to Get Refuge Permits

Permits are required for all hunters and fishermen regardless of age and ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE. When signed, this brochure serves as your permit for sport fishing and archery hunts.

Additional permits may be obtained at the Stone Creek and Longleaf Pine Trail parking lots, the Piedmont Refuge headquarters in Jones County, or by mail.

Application forms for the firearm hunts will be available in August and must be returned to the Piedmont refuge office by 12:00 noon on October 5, 2005. A public drawing will be held at 1:00 pm October 5, 2005.

Contact the Piedmont Refuge office for more information and to report any violations of refuge regulations 478/986 5441.

General Prohibited Activities

Taking, collecting or disturbing any plant or wildlife other than that specifically permitted by refuge regulation.

Possession or use of alcoholic beverages.

Driving metal objects into trees or hunting from a tree in which metal objects have been driven.

Marking trails with flagging, blazing, painting, paper, trash or other devices.

Walking, hunting, or trespassing on the railroad right-of-way.

Entering the refuge during firearm hunts without a refuge permit and/or sign in slip.

Possess or hunt with buckshot.

Hunting or shooting from or within 50 yards of a road open to vehicle travel or 200 yards of a building.

Transporting a loaded firearm in a vehicle or boat.

Target shooting.

Possessing firearms except during authorized hunting seasons with permit.

Off road vehicle travel.

Use of ATVs or other off road vehicles without permission.

Leaving vehicles or trailers on refuge overnight.

Blocking refuge road, boat ramp or gate with vehicles or vehicle travel around a closed gate.

Disturbing, annoying or interfering with other persons.

Open fires.

Unleashed pets.

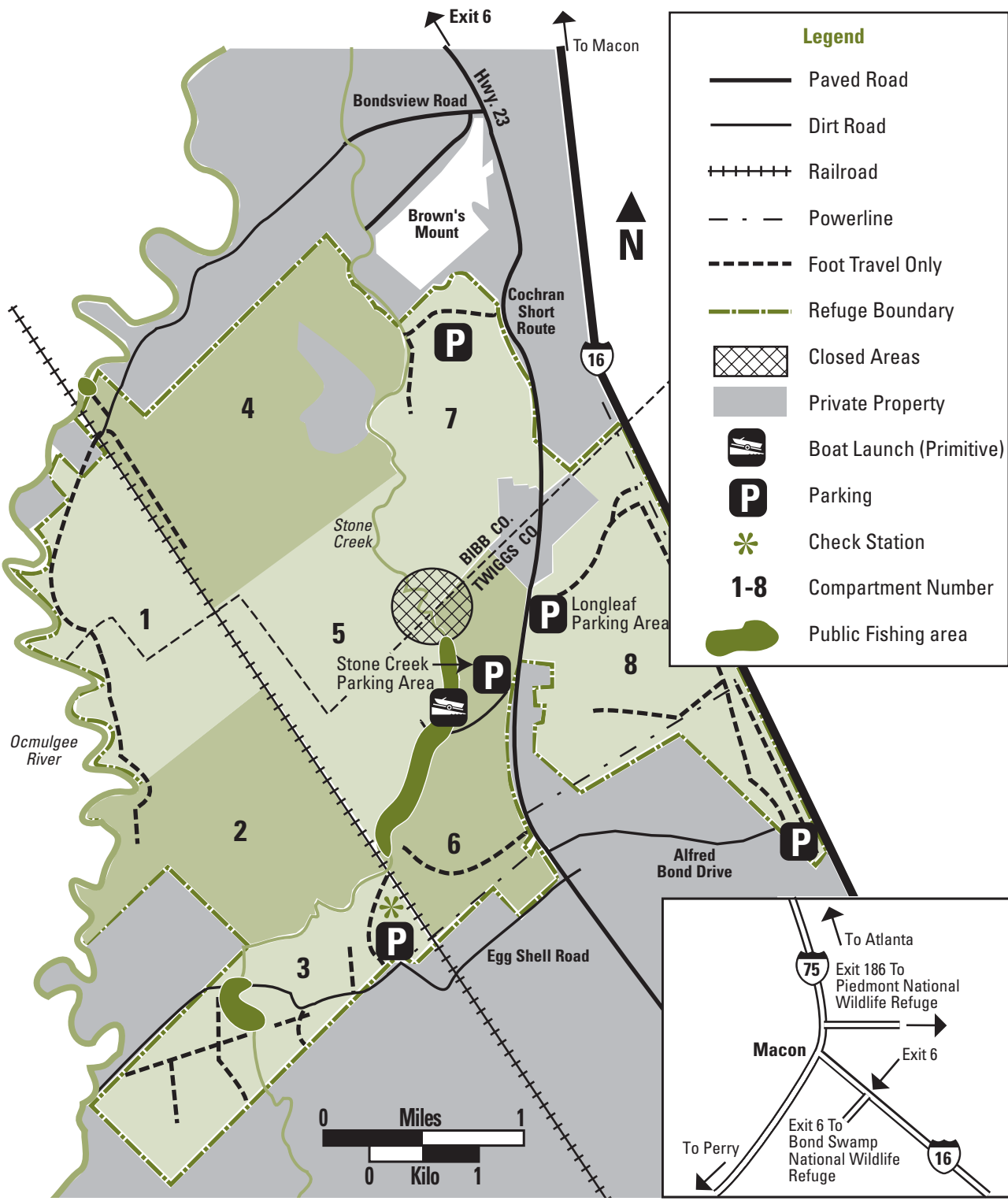
Removing live hogs from refuge.

Hunting with or by aid of dogs.

Littering.



Hunting Seasons 2005-2006				
Type hunt	Required permits	Season Dates	Bag Limit	
Archery - Deer & Feral Hog	General Refuge Permit Sign-in required	Sept. 10 - Oct. 2, 2005	State limit	
Deer & Feral Hog Firearm Hunt	Quota 100 Sign-in required	Dec. 8-10, 2005	2 deer only 1 antlered Hogs no limit	
Feral Hog Only Firearm Hunt	Quota 200 Sign-in required	January 19-21, 2006	no limit	
Feral Hog Only Firearm Hunt	Quota 200 Sign-in required	Feb. 9-11, 2006	no limit	



**Bond Swamp
National Wildlife Refuge**
718 Round Oak - Juliette Road
Round Oak, GA 31038
478/986 5441
<http://piedmont.fws.gov/bondswamp.html>

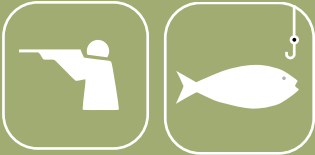
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

March 2005



Bond Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2005-2006



Refuge Hunting and Fishing Permit 2005-2006

When signed, this brochure is your permit for fishing and the archery hunt.

Signature